August 2004

Welcome to the first Fire Program Analysis electronic newsletter. Future newsletters will be event driven and highlight more details about the FPA system. These newsletters will not take place of the website which will host most of the FPA publications, updates and frequently asked questions (FAQs). If you would like more information visit http://fpa.nifc.gov or call Venetia Gempler at 208-947-3786.

Fire Program Analysis (FPA)

is a new system designed to help wildland fire managers plan and budget a common interagency fire management program at a landscape scale. FPA will display how different fire management costs effectively meet land management goals and objectives.

The Different Faces of FPA

The Core Team- is an interagency group developing the concepts, goals and objectives. They design the FPA modules and interface with IBM on the analysis software for Phase I.

The Implementation Coordination Group (ICG) is an interagency group that is developing an implementation and training plan for the first phase and subsequent modules.

Why FPA? The Federal Wildland Fire Policy developed in 1995 and reaffirmed in 2001, the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy, and the Hubbard Report, recommends developing a common interagency budget analysis system for the federal wildland fire community. Further direction from Congress and the executive branch mandated a system be developed.

Several fire analysis systems have been guiding planning efforts for decades; each designed to meet specific agency missions. While they were updated and fairly effective these systems do not easily promote interagency planning and budget formulation across boundaries. They have not adapted to meet the needs of today's complex fire management organization with its expanded mission.

The New Analysis System Will Result In Multiple Benefits - The FPA System will result in standardized, consistent agency budget submissions as well as a national database of alternative budget levels, fire management organizations, objectives and associated outcomes. When completed, FPA will replace current fire analysis systems such as IIAA (Interagency Initial Attack Assessment), FireBase, FIREPRO, and RAMS (Risk Analysis Management System).

FPA is Designed and Implemented in Two Phases – Federally mandated, Congressional direction instructed federal wildland fire managers to develop the analysis system in phases, beginning with initial response. When the Phase I "Preparedness Module" is proven successful fire managers will be able to proceed to develop Phase II. While outcomes for Phase I will display changes in initial response preparedness, the future of the wildland fire management organization is based on the integration of both phase one and two.

Phase I Is One Component of the Analysis System - The "Preparedness Module" includes initial response levels for wildland fire use and initial attack. Units will begin using this module on October 1, 2004. Alone, Phase I will not adequately determine wildland fire management's planning and budgeting needs, but it will display what an efficient and effective interagency initial response organization would look like based on different budget levels. Integration of
Phase II will complete the analysis process.

Phase II Is The Rest Of The Story – Phase II will include components

such as extended attack, large fire support, fuels management, emergency stabilization, and prevention/education. It may also include community assistance and restoration. Preliminary planning for Phase II is underway. Scheduled implementation is for 2007.

Training Classes On the Horizon – Two tuition free courses (Historic Analysis and Preparedness Module) will be offered preparing for implementation of Phase I. To ensure management oversight, Geographic Area Leads will prioritize the Fire Planning Units for student nominations.

Four FPA-Historic Analysis (FPA-HA) sessions will be offered, two in September, two in October.
FPA Preparedness Module (FPA-PM) training will be offered from October through December 2004.

Additional training for both courses will be offered after January 2005 to meet the rest of the national training needs.

Building the System from the Ground Up - FPA selected four prototype areas from successful interagency collaborative groups to assist in testing components of Phase I, the Preparedness Module (PM). These prototype areas test the software and provide feedback and suggestions about PM development and implementation. The prototypes areas are: Southern Sierra, Central Oregon, Southern Mississippi, and Alaska. This effort is so successful each prototype would like to remain involved throughout Phase II.

Field "Pre" Work Needed to Be Successful – FPA will have a direct tie to land management plans, their goals and objectives. Plan on an interagency basis; coordinate with neighboring agencies and partners for the "complete" fire planning picture. Establish an interagency Fire Planning Unit (FPU).

Accurate data is critical to produce a system that provides maximum benefits. Field offices should begin to consider how to acquire the best data available.

• Clean up historical fire and weather data
• Have fire management plans for every burnable acre
• Consult with the local or regional GIS Staff about the availability of or plans for obtaining the following layers for each FPU:

- Elevation
- Slope
- Aspect
- Vegetation and / or Fuels
- Dispatch and Resource location information
  (i.e. Engine, Crew, Helicopter, etc)

Ensure that the local or regional GIS managers are coordinating with the FPU partner agencies and understand the interagency aspects of the FPA process.

The **Steering Committee** manages the project and provides guidance and direction.

• Steve Botti,
National Park Service

• Lyle Carlile,
Bureau of Indian Affairs

• Roy Johnson and Andy Smith,
Bureau of Land Management

• Brian McManus and Roger Spaulding, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

• Buck Latapie and Steve Pedigo, U.S. Forest Service

The FPA Website Is Being Redesigned - Have you visited http://fpa.nifc.gov? The current site is designed around the Preparedness Module and is experiencing some growing pains with the arrival of the Implementation Coordination Group and the beginning of Phase II. Eventually, the new design will be organized to facilitate information sharing and link to the user application. *Stay tuned.*